



Apiary program

2013 SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) coordinates a statewide Apiary Program. The goal of this program is to protect managed honeybees from abiotic and biotic threats through inspection, education, and the promotion of best management practices. Below is a summary of the accomplishments for 2013:



Honeybee Health

- ◆ Over 2,000 hives inspected for overall health.
- ◆ American foulbrood (AFB) was discovered in 5 counties.
- ◆ All hives diagnosed with AFB treated or destroyed.
- ◆ Registered beekeepers within a 2 mile area of AFB outbreaks were alerted by phone and email.



Red 'Honey' Mitigation

- ◆ UDAF collected and lab tested the red-colored bee regurgitate called red "honey."
- ◆ No detectable levels of lead or other dangerous compounds were found.
- ◆ These findings were made public to assure consumers that Utah's honey supply was safe.



Outreach & Education

- ◆ Conducted 2 full-day trainings for the county bee inspectors of Utah.
- ◆ Presented information about the fundamentals of beekeeping to new beekeepers at package and nuc distribution events.
- ◆ Mailed a "Beekeeping Fundamentals" pamphlet to all registered apiarists.
- ◆ Sent out a fall AFB awareness mailer to all registered beekeepers.
- ◆ Checked up on all lapsed beekeeping registrations; ensured that any unused equipment was properly stored, transferred, or destroyed.
- ◆ Fielded hundreds of phone calls related to beekeeping problems.



The combined efforts of the UDAF apiary specialists and the county bee inspectors resulted in over 2,000 inspections for overall health.

Photo by Clint Burfitt, UDAF



Pesticide Investigations

Table 1:

Numerous instances of alleged pesticide poisoning of bee colonies were investigated; These cases are still open. Bees, honey, and feed were lab tested for pesticide residues. The predominant pesticide residues found were those from beekeeper-applied miticides (in bold).

Chemical	Present in % of Samples	Mean value of pesticide in PPB
Azoxystrobin	6.6%	Trace
Bifenthrin	6.6%	5.39
Chlorpyrifos	20.0%	1.20
Coumaphos	33.3%	3.82
Coumaphos oxon	6.6%	0.39
DMPF (amitraz)	66.6%	2,488.66
Fluvalinate	33.3%	3.72
Pendimethalin	13.3%	1.75
Thymol	73.3%	254.26



2014 Apiary Program

In 2014, the program will continue to conduct inspections, register new beekeepers, raise awareness about disease and pest issues, and emphasize best management practices. UDAF will also begin a two-year study on the health of honeybees in proximity to fruit orchards in Utah. For more information about this program, please visit: <http://ag.utah.gov/plants-pests/beekeeping.html>

UDAF Apiary Program
Clint Burfitt
Phone: (801) 538-7184
Email: cburfitt@utah.gov

UDAF Plant Industry
350 North Redwood Road
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
<http://ag.utah.gov/plants-pests.html>

UDAF Pesticide Program
Scott Oldham
Phone: (801) 538-7183
Email: soldham@utah.gov

UTAH'S REGISTERED BEEKEEPERS IN 2013

